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November 29, 1955

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DOCUMENT NO. 55  
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 CLASS. OFFICER'S NO. 90  
 NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2011  
 AUTH: HR 702  
 DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ REVIEWER: 008632

**Subject:** Cost and Schedule Proposal for Special High Altitude Aircraft.

**Reference A:** Letter of 3 Nov. 1955 to C. L. Johnson from

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1. Reference A confirmed prior verbal conversations between Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Trevor Gardner, and  and C. L. Johnson, of Lockheed, respecting the construction by this contractor of  aircraft identical to Lockheed model L-182 and three two-place interceptor versions of the same aircraft. It was requested that Mr. Johnson make a personal visit to Washington to discuss certain details of the program and discuss the schedule and cost involved for the program.

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2. On November 9th, a meeting was held in the Pentagon to discuss the over-all contract requirements. This meeting also further defined the configurations for the airplanes to be procured. In this meeting, it was recommended and decided that no interceptor versions of the model L-182 would be procured, at least not until after a high altitude evaluation had been run between an existing model L-182 and a B-52 bomber. This contractor was requested to submit a price and delivery schedule on the following aircraft:

a. Twenty model L-182 aircraft identical to the type currently being produced for another agency of the government. It is understood that these aircraft will have the identical type of equipment, ground handling elements, spare parts, etc., except that a later model of the J57 engine will be installed, if available. Duplicate shop supply and perishable tool kits are not provided in this quotation, as it is felt that the original supply for the initial twenty aircraft will be sufficient for all aircraft to be built.

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c. Three aircraft of the same basic type, to be used for ARDC test work on various equipment items.

3. In preparing the following schedule and cost data, it has been this contractor's understanding that the types of drawings used and systems followed in construction, engineering and inspection will be identical to those used for construction of the current group of aircraft being procured by the government. In order to meet a reasonable schedule and to free-up Lockheed experimental facilities, steps are being undertaken to construct the aircraft enumerated above in a Bakersfield, California, area, under the same conditions of security, however, as have been currently in effect at the Burbank facility. It is hoped that, when the above aircraft are to be delivered, they can be flown directly away from Bakersfield, without the necessity for final assembly at some other air base, in the existing manner. Consequently, the attached cost data is based on this assumption.

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5. During the meeting on November 9th, Mr. Johnson proposed that a study be made and a quotation prepared on a hydrogen-powered version of the aircraft. However, the results of the study are quite adverse, in that only a small amount of hydrogen can be carried internally in the aircraft. This amount (340 gallons of hydrogen) is equivalent to only 70 gallons of normal jet fuel (JP-6) in heat content and is, therefore, insufficient for safe flight. While drop tanks might be added, the volume problem looks almost insuperable. For this reason, unless the Air Force requests a more involved study, this proposal is rescinded by the contractor.

6. Charges for engineering already done for the three interceptor versions are included in the attached quotation.

7. As regards a schedule for the basic [ ] aircraft, it is proposed that the first aircraft be available for delivery by September 1956, and that the twentieth airplane be delivered in July 1957. The remaining [ ] aircraft would require the rest of 1957 for completion.

8. It is understood that such work will be contracted for by amendment of the existing contract for similar work. It is proposed that this be

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done, first, by a Letter Contract amendment as promptly as practicable. The proposed prices herein are tentative prices, contemplating that by approximately May 1956 a definitive amendment will be negotiated incorporating firm prices subject to redetermination in a manner similar to that applicable to the work under the existing contract.

9. The requested price and schedule data are attached.

LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT CORPORATION

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Executive Vice President

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Next 3 Page(s) In Document Denied